

New Mexico Interagency Coordination Group (NMICG) Charter

I. Purpose and Authority

Successful implementation of the *Federal Wildland Fire Policy*, the *National Fire Plan*, the *Cohesive Fuels Treatment Strategy*, and the *Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA)* are top priority for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Department of Interior, and the state of New Mexico. The New Mexico Interagency Coordinating Group (NMICG) is committed to collaborative and cooperative approaches and processes to implement the common purposes articulated in the *10-year Implementation Plan (Dec. 2006)* and the *National Fire Plan*. NMICG is organized to ensure collaboration and cooperation among the Federal, State, and tribal partner agencies within the state of New Mexico.

NMICG reports to the Southwest Coordinating Group (SWCG). The SWCG Chair will keep the Southwest Regional Executives briefed as needed.

II. Objectives

- Facilitate collaboration, cooperation and communications on statewide air quality and smoke management issues affecting the land management agencies.
- Provide a forum for discussing and resolving issues affecting wildland fire management programs in New Mexico as requested by SWCG or as identified by the New Mexico's Interagency Fire Management Zone Boards.
- Facilitate collaboration and cooperation, priority setting and implementation of the *National Fire Plan*, and the *10-year Implementation Plan* as they pertain to wildland fire, hazardous fuels, and ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation on Federal, State, tribal and private forest and range lands in New Mexico.

III. Specific Actions

- Facilitate resolution of interagency issues related to NMICG that arise at the statewide level that are not reserved for SWCG
- Identify procedures to assist field offices and eliminate ongoing or potential duplications of effort
- Encourage partner agencies to "speak with one voice" in coordinated public information and education efforts
- Monitor and track the progress of the implementation of fuels management programs in New Mexico, to include addressing risks from severe fires in WUI communities and restoring healthy ecological systems in other wildland area
- Facilitate interagency cooperation and collaboration while planning and implementing fuel reduction projects
- Support the New Mexico Air Quality Bureau's (NM AQB) Smoke Management Program; by maintaining a Memo of Understanding for cooperation, collaboration, and coordination of.
- Share information on a regular basis about agency and tribal activities and processes that might impact or impede collaborative, single-vision actions in the implementation of the *National Fire Plan* implementation in New Mexico and the *10-year Implementation Plan*.
- Promote best management practices and techniques by providing technical expertise related to fuels and smoke management
- Facilitate information sharing and coordinating with other specialist interest groups with similar missions, to include the SW Fire Consortium, NM RX Fire Council, AICG, NWS, NM AQB, etc.

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IV. Committee Structure/Membership

Membership of the NMICG shall consist of Federal, State, and tribal agencies with wildland fire responsibilities within the State of New Mexico. Each agency/entity will appoint one representative to serve as their primary (voting) member to the Coordinating Group.

Non-voting members include the New Mexico Interagency Smoke Management Coordinator, as well as other agency specialists. Additional interest groups (Zone Board Chairs from each New Mexico Interagency Fire Management Zone, liaisons from the New Mexico Fire Planning Task Force, the New Mexico Prescribed Fire Council, NM Air Quality Bureau, etc.) may attend NMICG meetings to help facilitate collaboration and cooperation, as well as encourage partnerships.

V. Subcommittees/Task Groups

Subcommittees and/or Task Groups will be indentified and created by NMICG, as needed. Each group will submit a program of work and regularly report to NMICG. NMICG will appoint a primary member as a liaison to each created subcommittee or task group.

VI. Administration

The Coordinating Group will host face-to-face meetings quarterly. Additional conference calls and/or special meetings may be called as necessary, at the request of any member.

The Chair will be held for two years with a rotation occurring in January of odd number years. Chair rotation will be as follows: National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, New Mexico State Forestry, and Bureau of Land Management. The Chair is responsible for convening Group meetings and preparing any records and reports. The Chair is responsible for the NMICG webpage on the SWCG website including posting of current work and showing current NMICG charter and membership.

The Vice-Chair will be the agency representative following the Chair on the membership list above and will fulfill the duties of the Chair as needed. The Vice-Chair will advance to the Chair at the conclusion of the Chair's term in office.

Costs associated with individual agency travel, per diem, communications, supplies, and equipment will be the responsibility of each agency.

Once approved by the SWCG chair, this Charter is valid until member agencies agree a new charter needs to be prepared. This Charter may be terminated at any time.

Recommended by:



Jeffrey L. Hickerson, Chair
New Mexico Interagency Coordinating Group

Nov. 7, 2011

Date

Approved by:



Leon W. Ben, Jr., Chair
Southwest Coordinating Group

11/10/2011

Date